

TOGETHER
2030

November 2018 – October 2019

TOGETHER 2030 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

*Making the HLPF a Forum to Accelerate SDG
Implementation*

TOGETHER
2030

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Foreword

Accelerating the pace of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level the main challenge throughout the year 2019. Now that the first cycle of the HLPF is over, and in the light of the journey so far towards the year 2030, it becomes extremely urgent to call on national Governments to take appropriate measures to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the SDGs with effective participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia.

The Together 2030 initiative, like the SDGs, is four years old. During the reporting period from November 2018 to October 2019, we focused our advocacy on the next level, calling for a renewed and increased ambition of the HLPF to make it the institution with real vocation and capacity to accelerate SDGs implementation. With only one decade left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative that we all innovate to establish, strengthen and foster partnerships that will accelerate the process of an effective and inclusive implementation of the SDGs.

Together 2030 does not work in silos. This year, once again, we did not work alone. We worked closely with our partners, the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism, and more importantly, with our members who have continued to engage by joining us from all over the world.

In the context of the review of the HLPF in 2020, Together 2030 will mobilise members to maximize this opportunity by contributing to the planned review to ensure that the views of civil society are appropriately captured in the process. We call upon all actors to renew and consolidate the engagement commitment to this partnership to support and elevate our efforts to make the SDGs implementation a reality at the local, national and regional levels.

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1. Introduction: about Together 2030



Established in 2015, [Together 2030](#) is a global, action-oriented initiative that aims to generate and share knowledge on the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The initiative has already mobilized over 700 members across regions with a strong presence in developing countries and a clear interest from organizations based in developed countries. Together 2030 is guided by a unifying vision: The commitments of the 2030 Agenda are made a reality, with civil society contributing in a meaningful way.

Together 2030 in numbers

- As of November 2019, **753 members** are part of the Initiative (see full list [here](#)) – an increase of 15% from last year.
- A total of **109 countries represented**.
- The **Africa region** represents 45% of the entire membership, followed by **Europe & North America** with 24%; **Asia & the Pacific** with 21%; **Latin America & the Caribbean** with 7%; and **Global organizations** representing 3%.
- **Developing countries** represent 72% of the membership
- International organizations and organizations based in **developed countries** represent 28% of Together 2030's membership.

This report provides an overview of Together 2030 actions undertaken from November 2018 to October 2019. It also intends to highlight the initiative's raised profile by outlining the main activities and successes achieved during its third anniversary as well as flagging opportunities and challenges for next period.

2. Together 2030 in 2019

In 2019, Together 2030 focused its work on four main priorities targeting SDGs implementation, partnerships, Civil Society capacity building and resource mobilization:

- Tracking progress and promoting acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.
- Establishing partnerships for concrete action and change.
- Sharing knowledge to strengthen capacity and leverage engagement and participation on implementation and accountability at all levels.
- Generating financial and structural sustainability for the work of the Initiative.



Similarly, Together 2030 set four main objectives in its work plan, which served to frame the work in 2019:

- **Objective 1:** To track progress and promote accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the participation of diverse and legitimate civil society voices at all levels.
- **Objective 2:** To promote, establish and coordinate activities through partnerships with organizations, networks and other stakeholders.
- **Objective 3:** To create spaces and opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen capacity and leverage the engagement and participation of civil society on the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.
- **Objective 4:** To strengthen financial sustainability and reinforce internal structures, governance, communications and transparency of the Initiative.

This report is structured to highlight the main actions undertaken under each objective of Together 2030 work plan outlining activities, results as well as the challenges encountered.

3. Tracking progress and promoting accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda

3.1 Together 2030 at the High-Level Political Forum

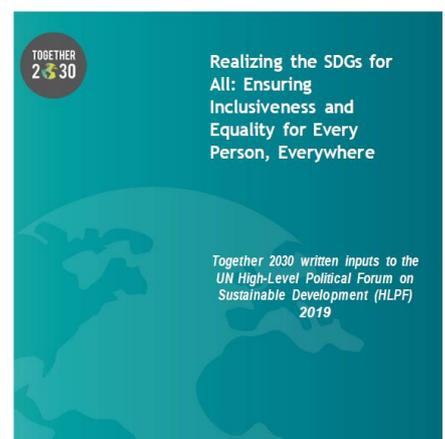
Together 2030 prioritizes its engagement with the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as this is the main space for global review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The work is undertaken months prior to the official session and includes the mobilization of Together 2030 members in several ways, exchange of information and development of technical and advocacy materials.

For a third year in a row, Together 2030 was able to facilitate the registration of non-ECOSOC members for the HLPF. With the support of [World Vision](#), a set of criteria was defined and an open process was established to review nominations and proceed with registration. In total, **27 member-organizations** were successfully registered to attend the forum.

3.1.1 Written inputs to the HLPF

Together 2030 mobilized its [Global Advocacy Working Group](#) to put together a position paper with key advocacy messages focused on this year's theme and Goals under review. The paper also raised concerns around participation, accountability and transparency and briefly addressed the upcoming HLPF review scheduled for the 74th Session of the General Assembly.

A summary of this position paper has been included in the [official discussion paper from Major Groups and other Stakeholders](#) to the HLPF 2019. The full text as well as summary can be found on the [HLPF official website](#).



3.1.2 Together 2030 side events



Together 2030 had a visible presence during the HLPF 2019. Three side events, two during the thematic review week and two during the Ministerial segment addressed issues around the VNR process, SDG implementation and stakeholder engagement. Our official side event “*Renewing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”

Civil Society perspectives on Principles for a successful HLPF review: was covered by the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) and featured in an article on their website as well as on their Twitter account. Article is available [here](#).

Together 2030 also participated in the official agenda of the HLPF at the session “*Four years of VNRs: what have we learned on implementing the SDGs?*” which took place on July 15 in conference room 4, at the conference room building of the United Nations. The full version of this intervention is available [here](#).

Similarly, two interventions were made during the HLPF General Debate. On July 10, **Richard Rumsey from World Vision**, delivered a Together 2030 statement during the review of SDG 8 calling for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for young people by 2030; promoting economic and financial inclusion for women and; strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards.



On July 11, **Lucy Espila, from Caritas Kenya**, delivered a statement during the review of SDG 10 on rising inequalities that conventional economic models created in Africa and how the SDGs and *Laudato Si* can help with tackling such inequalities.

Side events during HLPF 2019:

- **Renewing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Civil Society perspectives on Principles for a successful HLPF review**- Together 2030 side event in partnership with Action for Sustainable Development, Forus, and TAP network- July 11, 2019.
- **What do Major Groups and Other Stakeholders want out of the HLPF Review?**- Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) - July 17, 2019
- **Checks and Balances Wanted: How to Better Engage Parliaments in the 2030 Agenda**- Side event in partnership with German NGO Forum- July 16, 2019

A full report on [2019 HLPF engagement](#) was launched in September 2019. The report includes statements, papers and pictures of the activities undertaken during the HLPF. To learn more, the report can be found in [Together 2030 website](#).



4. Promoting, establishing & coordinating partnerships

With the purpose of enabling partnerships for concrete action and change, Together 2030 is actively scoping new partnerships and strengthening old ones to keep underpinning and creating spaces for more collaboration, promotion and participation around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, Together 2030 undertook several projects in partnerships with other organizations, as described in the section below

4.1. HLPF Review: Shared Principles Paper



In the context of the High-level Political Forum reform, civil society networks and initiatives namely [Action for Sustainable Development](#), [Forus](#), [Together2030](#) and [TAP Network](#) came together to outline a set of shared principles to guide the HLPF review process.

The aforementioned joined forces to maximize the opportunity that this process represents with the common understanding of this review to be critical to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Click [here](#) to learn more about the shared principles of the HLPF review. An HLPF side event was convened (described above) together with a Webinar focusing on the Principles Paper (more details below).



4.2 Perception survey report: 2019 edition and Four Year Analysis

In the context of the SDGs Summit 2019, Together 2030 and Newcastle University launched the 4th Perceptions Survey report. The 2019 report entitled [Commitments and challenges: stakeholder participation in follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019](#) finds that there has been progress on increasing civil society awareness of, and participation in VNRs –though it is unclear how far this reflects improved government efforts, or greater self-organisation on the part of civil society stakeholders.

There is no evidence, though, that this awareness and engagement have made the VNRs more rigorous or effective in catalyzing SDG implementation; most respondents see little progress in their countries after VNRs. The report also finds that VNR processes continue to exclude “left behind” groups. The report was featured on [IISD SDG Knowledge Hub](#) on October 10. The [full report](#) as well as the [methodology note](#) can be found in our [Website](#).

Similarly, on the finalized first cycle of the HLPF, Together 2030 and Newcastle University prepared a paper reviewing the four years the Perception Survey, which has been running since 2016. The paper [Stakeholder engagement in VNRs 2015-2019: Four years of the Together 2030/Newcastle University stakeholder perceptions survey](#) brings together and summarizes the main trends and findings of the surveys over the years (2016-2019), reflecting on how the survey – and the SDG context – has changed over this period, and where it might go next.



Stakeholder engagement in VNRs 2015-2019

Four years of the Together 2030/Newcastle University stakeholder perceptions survey

The results of the survey over the four years speak to two key tensions at the heart of the SDGs: First, the SDGs are universal and global, but nationally owned and implemented; and second, national SDG processes are agreed and controlled by states and governments, even though the SDGs demand much broader ownership by stakeholders.



4.3 Voluntary National Review Analysis Report 2018

Once again, Together 2030 joined forces with several CSO partners to produce the report [“Progressing National SDG Implementation”](#) which is the third in a regular series of reports commissioned by civil society. It documents and analyses the 46 Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports submitted in 2018 to the UN’s High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The report identifies ten key pillars that we believe are essential to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recognizes emerging good practice, and sets out a range of conclusions and recommendations with respect to how countries can both improve their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and use the HLPF as an opportunity for mutual peer learning, knowledge exchange and support.



5. Creating opportunities for knowledge sharing, strengthening capacity and leveraging participation

Together 2030 provides a channel for information exchange regarding the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda and opportunities for engagement and participation, especially at the global and regional levels. In 2017, Together 2030 again celebrated its anniversary with a series of special activities to mobilize its membership.

5.1 Blogs and Webinars

Through its [blog](#) and [webinar](#) series, Together 2030 provides spaces for its members to exchange interact and learn. However, this year, due to a more limited Secretariat, the Initiative has had to somewhat scale back some of its communication and coordination activities. This year Together 2030 members posted **five blogs**, which included a wide range of topics, from findings of our perception survey, engaging in VNR process, and mobilizing parliaments.

Together 2030 regularly hosts webinars in partnership with other groups, organizations and networks - aiming to create spaces for the discussion of technical and political aspects related to the implementation and accountability of the 2030 at global, regional and national levels. This year, **six webinars** were organized or co-hosted. Details as follows:

- **Why and How to Engage in Voluntary National Reviews-** Together 2030, in partnership with CAFOD and Uniting Combat NTDs. November 2018
- **Special Webinar: The Value of Engaging with Parliaments to Realize Agenda 2030-** Together 2030, UNDP, Global Focus, World Vision, Sightsavers and Newcastle University. December 2018.
- **Strengthening Accountability & Improving the High Level Political Forum for the Next Cycle (2020-2023) -** Together 2030, Action for Sustainable Development, Forus and TAP Network. June 2019
- **Preparing for the High Level Political Forum 2019-** Together 2030 and TAP Network. July 2019
- **Debrief on HLPF 2019 and Exchange on the SDGs Summit-** Together 2030 and TAP Network. August 2019
- **Global Indicators: Briefing on 10th IAEG-SDGs-** Together 2030 and TAP Network

More information on the Webinars including **recordings, presentations and notes can be found [here](#)**

5.2 Together 2030 third anniversary in 2018

In December 2018, Together 2030 celebrated its third anniversary and used the opportunity to promote a series of activities to mobilize its membership, create opportunities to exchange knowledge and information and strengthen the internal structures. The anniversary week took place on December 3-7 and some of the activities included:



Together 2030 2nd Anniversary activities (December 2018)

- 1) Message sent by the Core Group to the whole membership.
- 2) Twitter: Over 50 tweets during the week with key messages and activities of Together 2030.
- 3) Special Webinar (See section 5.1).
- 4) Three polls published in Twitter with participation of over 80 people
- 5) Over 15 messages shared in Twitter from our Twitter campaign #FromLocaltoGlobal
- 6) Launch of two reports: [Together 2030 Activities Report \(Nov 2017 - Oct 2018\)](#); [Análisis de discursos de países de América Latina y el Caribe durante la 73 Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas](#)

6. Strengthening internal structure and governance

6.1 Governance structure

Together 2030 was initiated by a group of organisations aiming to advance civil society work during the post-2015 negotiations and pushing for the implementation and accountability of Agenda 2030 at all levels. Currently, the Core Group is formed by:

- [CEPEI](#) – (Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional) (Colombia);
- [JDPC Ijebu-Ode](#) (Justice, Development and Peace Commission) (Nigeria);
- [Philippine Social Enterprise Network](#) (Philippines);
- Save Matabeleland (Zimbabwe);
- [Sightsavers](#) (Global);
- [World Vision](#) (Global)

Together 2030 coordination is in charge of two co-chairs and a secretariat. As of September 2019, Arelys Bellorini (World Vision) and Andrew Griffiths (Sightsavers) were the two co-chairs. In October 2019, Javier Surasky (from CEPEI) was elected as the new co-chair and have joined World Vision in the coordination of the Initiative.

Members of the Together 2030 Core Group and the Secretariat attending the HLPF met on July 13 to review the main achievements of the Initiative thus far reflect on the current landscape in light of the HLPF review as well as discuss a new strategy for Together 2030 for the period of 2019-2020. Updates will be shared with the Together 2030 membership accordingly.



6.3 Strengthening Social Media

Together 2030 invests in social media to share information about the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, to promote the work of the Initiative and its members and to connect with other groups, organizations and people. As of November 2019, Together 2030 has reached **2,764 followers on Twitter**, an increment of 26% from last year (2,038).

6.4 Financial support for keeping up the work

Core Group members Sightsavers and World Vision International have taken the lead in providing the necessary resources to keeping Together 2030 operational - including covering the costs of its International Secretariat, website, WebEx (for Webinars) and IT structure and other related costs.

7. Next steps

The upcoming 2020 will be a pivotal year as the proceedings for the HLPF review will unfold during the current 74th Session of the General Assembly. Together 2030 will work in its new strategy that will cover the next HLPF cycle (2020-2023) focusing on promoting the accelerated action of SDGs implementation.

High on Together 2030 advocacy agenda will be:

- 1. Engage and influence the process of HLPF Review**
- 2. Taking stock of SDGs implementation** at national level focusing on accelerated action
- 3. Establishing partnerships** for concrete action and change
- 4. Sharing knowledge** to strengthen capacities and leverage engagement and participation of civil society and stakeholders.
- 4. Generating financial and structural sustainability** for the work of the initiative



You can reach out to us via any of these channels:

www.together2030.org
contact@together2030.org
Twitter: [@Together_2030](https://twitter.com/Together_2030)

Together 2030 is an open initiative where any civil society, non-governmental, non-profit stakeholders from around the world can join. It is voluntary, informal action-oriented. Information about how to join the Initiative can be found here: <http://www.together2030.org/join-us/>

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